

The amount of moisture given off is considered by some in connection with the carbonic acid exhaled, to ascertain the theoretical amount of air to admit; but this theoretical amount for most houses is larger than healthy persons seem to require, according to certain experience. This is accounted for by the fact that opening doors and windows, especially if they are kept open for some time, the draft through cracks, &c., add very much to the volume of admitted air, though not considered in the computation.

LIME AS A PURIFIER.—If a house has been lately plastered or whitewashed, the lime will, at first, take up the carbonic acid with avidity; so will any ordinary mortar; in fact, I have seen artificial stone made by passing the products of combustion of a stove (carbonic acid mainly) by a flue into a room where was placed the mortar, moulded into the required form. The lime of the mortar changed to carbonate of lime, which cemented firmly the grains of sand into a hard rock.

It destroys organisms to whitewash. It would seem, therefore, that a plastered wall whitewashed was better than either the "hard finish" or papering. The accumulation of filth in successive coats of papering in old houses is probably frightful. Most of us have seen the trunks of trees whitewashed. This seems to me a misdirected effort to promote health. Why should such indignity be practiced on our noblest growths, stopping up the pores of the bark and probably injuring the tree, in order to remove a little carbonic acid *out of doors*, where it is not in excess?

THE LEAVES OF PLANTS AS PURIFIERS.—The carbonic acid thrown off into the air by decomposition, lightning, heating and the breathing of animals, is taken up by the leaves of growing plants, where it is decomposed, by aid of the sun's rays, the carbon being appropriated to help make woody fibre, &c., and the oxygen being given back to the air to fit it for respiration. We cannot imitate this process in ventilation schemes, but have to resort to heated currents or to fans to expel the foul air from our rooms and leave it to nature to carry the foul air by the winds to